

Northumbria Research Link

Citation: O'Brien, Geoff and O'Keefe, Phil (2008) Events or people?: trying to understand disasters: the social-science interface in considering natural hazards. In: The Social Science Interface in Considering Natural Hazards: A Workshop to Explore Common Ground, 18-19 December 2008, Durham, United Kingdom.

URL:

This version was downloaded from Northumbria Research Link:
<http://nrl.northumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/264/>

Northumbria University has developed Northumbria Research Link (NRL) to enable users to access the University's research output. Copyright © and moral rights for items on NRL are retained by the individual author(s) and/or other copyright owners. Single copies of full items can be reproduced, displayed or performed, and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided the authors, title and full bibliographic details are given, as well as a hyperlink and/or URL to the original metadata page. The content must not be changed in any way. Full items must not be sold commercially in any format or medium without formal permission of the copyright holder. The full policy is available online: <http://nrl.northumbria.ac.uk/policies.html>

This document may differ from the final, published version of the research and has been made available online in accordance with publisher policies. To read and/or cite from the published version of the research, please visit the publisher's website (a subscription may be required.)



**Northumbria
University**
NEWCASTLE



UniversityLibrary



Events or People? Trying to Understand Disasters

Phil O'Keefe
Geoff O'Brien
19th December 2008

The Social-Science Interface in Considering Natural Hazards
A Workshop to explore common ground
IHRR, Durham University
18-19 December 2008



A Little Theory

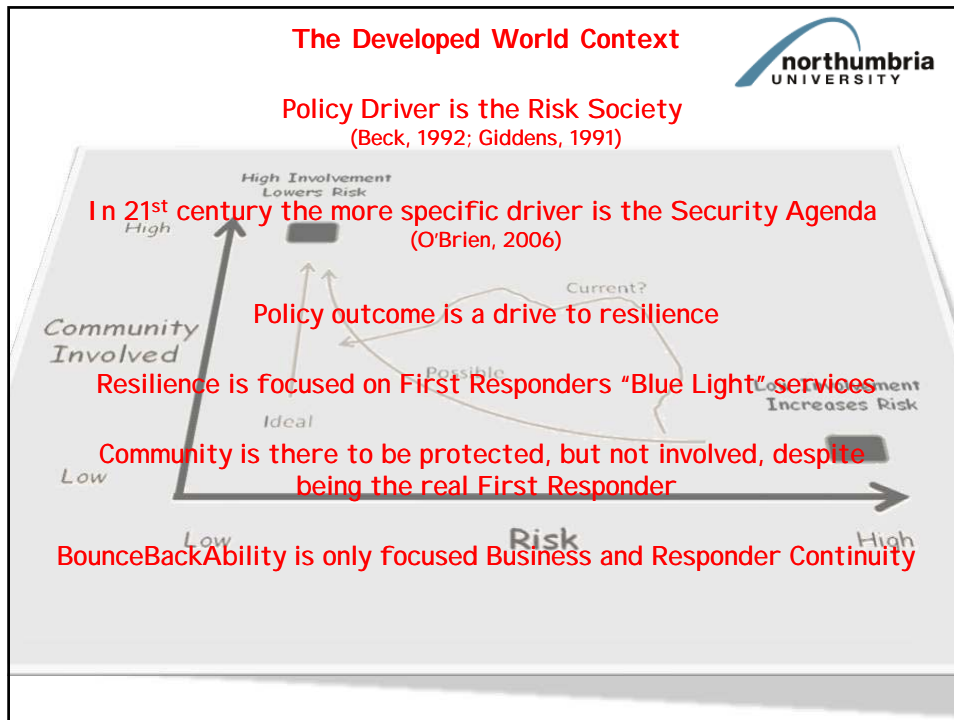
From Husbandry to Mastery of Nature
(Pepper, 1984)

The Production of Nature
(Smith, 1990)

The Production of Risk under Capitalism
(O'Keefe & Smith, 1985; O'Brien et al, 2008a)

Risks in Transition
(Peet, 1998)

Natural/Technological/Complex Emergency as Triggers
(Wisner et al, 2004)



Concluding Remarks

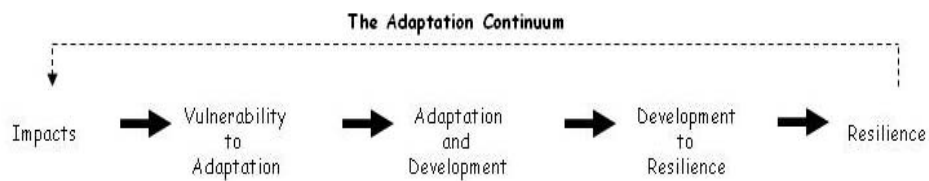


Poverty of Institutional Involvement and Poverty of Livelihood Involvement

Social Resilience as THE Development Goal

Recognition that Natural Laws and Processes exist but
people can adapt to them

Technological modification to Natural Laws and Processes is possible



References

- Beck U. (1992) Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity, Sage
- Cline-Cole R. O'Keefe P. (2006) Mainstreaming the African Environment in Development? Review of African Political Economy, 33 (109) pp 377-389
- Giddens A. (1991) Modernity and self-identity. Self and society in the late modern age. Polity Press
- O'Brien G. (2006) UK Emergency Preparedness – A step in the right direction? Journal of International Affairs, Vol. 59 (2) pp 63 -85, Trustees of Columbia University, New York, USA.
- O'Brien G. O'Keefe P. Rose J. (2008a) The Vulnerable Society, Area, Vol. 40 No. 4, pp. 520-521.
- O'Brien G. O'Keefe P. Meena H. Rose J. Wilson L. (2008b), Climate Adaptation from a Poverty Perspective, Climate Policy, Vol 8 pp 194-201. Earthscan
- Peet R. (1998) Modern Geographical Thought, Blackwell
- Pepper D. (1984) The Roots of Modern Environmentalism, Routledge
- Smith N. O'Keefe P. (1985) Geography, Marx and Concept of Nature ,Antipode 17(2-3) pp 79-88
- Smith N. (1990) Uneven Development: Nature, Capital and Reproduction of Space, Blackwell
- Wisner B. Blaikie P. Davis I. Cannon T. (2004) At Risk: Natural Hazards, People's Vulnerability and Disasters, Routledge